

Good afternoon, Senator Prague, Representative Ryan, Senator Guglielmo, Representative Aman and other distinguished members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee.

My name is Steven Rief, and I am the President of the Connecticut State Police Union.

I am here today to speak in favor of:

**PROPOSED BILL NO. 5704**

**AN ACT CONCERNING CREDIT IN THE STATE EMPLOYEES  
RETIREMENT SYSTEM FOR SERVICE TO A MUNICIPALITY THAT IS NOT  
A MEMBER OF THE MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
(MERF).**

**PROPOSED BILL NO. 5406**

**AN ACT CONCERNING CREDIT UNDER TIER II OF THE STATE  
EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM FOR SERVICE TO A MUNICIPALITY  
THAT IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES'  
RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

Many of our Troopers served as municipal police officers prior to their employment with the Connecticut State Police. Some served as little as one year and others served up to 12 years at various municipalities. While some were members of the Connecticut Municipal Employees' Retirement System (MERF), others were not. However, all of them would like the opportunity to recoup their municipal retirement contributions and credit them to the state employees retirement system.

Currently, Section 5-192j of the general statutes only allows for credited service for municipal time **if** the officers were members of the MERF plan. Non-MERF officers are unable to receive the same credited service.

The proposed bills are a good start at correcting this unfairness by allowing Non-MERF members the opportunity to receive credited service to the state employees retirement system. This benefit is not without a fiscal cost, and the Troopers who would be affected by this change, are willing to pay their fair share to obtain this credit.

I would like to close by thanking the Committee for your attention and I would be happy to provide you with any further information.

CONNECTICUT STATE POLICE UNION  
Steven Rief, President

February 6, 2007